

Ridley Park, PA – Representatives from more than 50 area businesses gathered at Boeing's Supplier Outreach Forum to gain access to contracts from the world's leading aerospace company and the largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft combined. For the last decade, projects unable to be completed by the union workers were often outsourced to other areas of the country. Chuck Allen, the General Manager and Vice President of Rotorcraft Systems introduced Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) as "the reason that we are here," recalling a meeting at a local small business where the Congressman discussed making these contracts more available locally. After several meetings with Congressman Sestak, Boeing agreed to first offer the work to area businesses, such as a Radnor company that was recognized today at the second of these forums. —

"Between 2001 and 2006, Delaware County suffered a net loss of 762 small businesses, including 22 percent of its manufacturing companies," said Congressman Sestak, who is co-Chair of the Congressional Rotorcraft Caucus. "As a major supplier of jobs to this District, Boeing has the capacity to play an integral role in sustaining this region's small manufacturing businesses."

The Congressman also took part in congratulating Airgas, a Radnor company that Boeing announced today has received a two-year extension of its contract, including \$16.5 million of revenue in the first year. Airgas Safety is the primary provider of safety and industrial hygiene products for Boeing. Earlier this year, Boeing awarded Airgas Safety its Boeing Performance Excellence Award. Airgas distributes industrial, medical, and specialty gases, and hardgoods, such as welding equipment and supplies.

The process leading to today's meeting began earlier this year when the Congressman first met with officials at Boeing to discuss their bidding process. Boeing must initially allow the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America union (UAW) to bid on contracts to build their rotorcraft. If UAW does not win the contract, however, Boeing may take the job to outside contractors. The Congressman noted that those jobs were often being given to companies in the American South and other regions far from our own, when the 7th District has many companies that are more than qualified for the job. He asked that Boeing first allow local companies to bid on these important jobs. This agreement was also discussed when Congressman Sestak held a small business roundtable meeting at Pioneer Tooling & Machine Company with representatives from Boeing and area small manufacturers.

"Through these outreach meetings, I look forward to seeing more relationships, such as the one

with Airgas, develop between Boeing and local companies," said Congressman Sestak. "I have always said the national security begins at home. Not only does Boeing greatly impact our national security by providing the quality equipment that our troops need, but also by contributing to our economic security by creating jobs in my District."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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